

Dianna J. Thiel, CFA
10 Burdsall Avenue
Fort Mitchell, KY 41017

January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing in full support of the recent settlement between Microsoft and the U.S. Department of Justice. The case has dragged on long enough, and further litigation could do serious damage to the IT sector and economy. I do not believe that Microsoft has demonstrated monopolistic tendencies. They have delivered quality products without raising the prices unreasonably. Microsoft has standardized the industry making it easy to use computers which has benefited the consumer. Their work has been innovative and has obviously been the reason for their success.

The terms of the settlement should appease all parties since competitors will receive technological information that they otherwise should not have if all the rules of free enterprise were working properly. Microsoft will be disclosing interfaces and protocols to competitors that will enable them to copy Windows and try to create more innovative products. They have also agreed to not retaliate against software developers and computer makers who develop or promote software that competes with Windows operating system products.

These and other concessions should be enough to convince your office in favor of settling. Please take a stance against further litigation and finalize the settlement for the best interests of the American public

Sincerely,

Dianna J. Thiel, CFA

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